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Everyone recognizes the importance of expanding tools to find criminals, but Proposition 69 goes too far. Proposition 69 risks your privacy. Your DNA reveals the most intimate and sensitive information about you and your family. Proposition 69 may put your DNA in a common government database alongside convicted killers and rapists.

How could this happen? Because Proposition 69 would force many Californians *who have never committed a crime* to be included in a *criminal database*.

Innocent People Are Treated Just Like Criminals.

Every year in California, there are 50,000 arrests that never result in people being charged with a crime. Arrests might range from traffic stops to mistaken identity. Under Proposition 69, these people must provide a DNA sample. *Everyone that is arrested for any felony whatsoever* – even trespassing, shoplifting, or writing a bad check – is subject to DNA testing, sampling, and filing in criminal databases.

California already requires the collection, testing, and storage of DNA from serious and violent felons, including kidnappers, rapists, murderers and child molesters. Proposition 69 is a dangerous departure from current law because it would put innocent citizens in the same database as convicted criminals.

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Initiative Risks Your Privacy.

Proposition 69 is contrary to California's tradition of legal protection of medical, financial and personal privacy rights. Why? DNA is FAR MORE THAN A FINGERPRINT. Your DNA tells anyone who has this information whether you and your family are predisposed to contract diseases such as heart disease, obesity, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, or cancer.

The "safeguards" in the initiative are inadequate to protect your privacy. Once you are in the database, government has no obligation to remove your profile. Restrictions and enforcement necessary to protect you are not clearly spelled-out in the initiative. Moreover, government databases grow and merge. There's no guarantee that these DNA databases will not be expanded in the future. The initiative allows DNA testing and sorting to be conducted by private laboratories. Do you feel confident that private, for-profit laboratories will protect your privacy rights?

Proposition 69 Will Cost Millions.

Proponents of Proposition 69 have hidden the real costs of this initiative. Proposition 69 has tens of millions of dollars of start-up costs and on-going costs that may not be adequately funded by the initiative. To make up any shortfall, Proposition 69 could TAKE MONEY FROM OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATION and government programs. Proposition 69 will cost millions of dollars for a DNA databank that puts sensitive genetic information about innocent people alongside criminals.

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This initiative allows for collection of Californians' most personal and revealing information, but it lacks government accountability if your DNA is mishandled or misused. Once your DNA is seized by the government, it will be filed alongside criminals. Proposition 69 violates the privacy rights of innocent Californians without necessary safeguards, privacy protection and accountability to make sure government does its job right.

Vote NO on Proposition 69. This initiative goes too far and costs all of us too much.

(Signatories)

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Beth Givens, Executive Director

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